



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Department of Toxic Substances Control

PRESS RELEASE

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California Department of Toxic Substances Control Appoints Claudia Polsky as Division Chief of Pollution Prevention and Technology Development

SACRAMENTO - California Department of Toxic Substances Control today announced the appointment of Claudia Polsky as division chief of the Office of Pollution Prevention and Technology Development.

"Historically, DTSC's work has focused on cleaning up hazardous waste sites from the past, and regulating the use of toxins in the present. One of my top priorities is to increase the Department's orientation towards the future: preventing the use of toxic materials, and the health risks, pollution risks, and recycling and disposal costs associated with that use," said Director Gorsen. "Claudia's background in toxics litigation, economics, and science is the kind of multi-disciplinary expertise we need to design innovative pollution prevention and green technology programs for California."

Polsky most recently served as a Deputy Attorney General in the Environment Section at the California Department of Justice. Prior to joining State service, Polsky worked as an attorney at Earthjustice and Public Citizen Litigation Group, and as a land protection negotiator for The Nature Conservancy.

"Claudia has spent more than 20 years doing environmental protection work in many contexts, and has a well-deserved reputation for leadership. I believe she can bring together the diverse array of constituents – from businesses to academia to unions and community activists — necessary to design and implement model pollution prevention programs for California," said Gorsen.

Polsky, of Berkeley, earned a Juris Doctorate degree from Boalt Hall School of Law, a Master of Applied Science degree in Natural Resource Management as a Fulbright Scholar in New Zealand (Lincoln University), and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Harvard University.

The duties and responsibilities of the division chief for pollution prevention and technology development include: implementing California's Green Chemistry Initiative, directing the work of technical staff engaged in hazardous waste source-reduction programs, and evaluating and deploying new environmental technologies to detoxify production processes and create safer consumer products.

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The mission of the Department of Toxic Substances Control is to provide the highest level of safety, and to protect public health and the environment from toxic harm.